

CROPS

GENERAL

The State's average hay yields were unchanged from the previous year and down slightly from normal due to some freezing temperatures in the early part of the growing season and drought conditions later on in some parts of the State. Tobacco yields were normal for the State as yields were up 50 pounds from the previous year, following several years of below average yields. Corn yields were down from 2001 yields, but were still about normal, while wheat yields were below normal. The year 2000 was the first year for soybeans in the crop estimating program for West Virginia.

ALL FORAGE

Total acres for **all forage** were estimated at 591,000 acres. All forage dry equivalent yield averaged 1.89 tons per acre and production totaled 1.12 million tons.

ALL HAY

All hay harvested area in 2002 totaled 570,000 acres, down 10,000 from 2001. The average yield of 1.86 tons per acre was unchanged from the previous year. Production totaled 1.06 million tons, down 2 percent from 2001.

ALFALFA & ALFALFA MIXTURES

Alfalfa hay area harvested totaled 50,000 acres in 2002, unchanged from 2001. Yields in 2002 averaged 2.5 tons per acre, also unchanged from 2001. Production totaled 125,000 tons the same as the previous year. New seedings of alfalfa in 2002 were estimated at 7000 acres, up 1,000 acres from 2001 seedings.

OTHER HAY

All **other hay** area harvested totaled 520,000 acres in 2002, down 10,000 acres from 2001. Yields averaged 1.8 tons per acre, unchanged from 2001. Production totaled 936,000 tons, down 2 percent from the previous year.

CORN

Area planted to **corn** for all purposes in 2002 totaled 50,000 acres, unchanged from the previous year. Harvested area for grain totaled 30,000 acres, up 4,000 acres from 2001. The average yield of 105.0 bushels per acre was down 15 bushels from the previous year's yield. Production was 3.15 million bushels, up 1 percent from 2001. Corn for silage area harvested was 19,000 acres in 2002, down 4,000 acres from 2001. Yields averaged 16.5 tons per acre which was down 0.5 tons from the previous year's record setting yield. Silage production was estimated at 314,000 tons, down 20 percent from 2001.

SOYBEANS

Area planted to **soybeans** totaled 18,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from 2001. Area harvested for beans totaled 17,000 acres, also up 1,000 acres from the previous year. The yield for soybeans in 2002 averaged 37.0 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from the previous year. Production was estimated at 629,000 bushels, down 6 percent from 2001.

WHEAT

Wheat planted acres totaled 12,000 in 2002, unchanged from 2001. Area harvested for grain totaled 7,000 acres, down 1,000 acres from 2001. The average yield for 2002 was estimated to be 48.0 bushels per acre. This was down 10 bushels from the previous year. Production was estimated at 336,000 bushels, down 28 percent from 2001.

TOBACCO

Burley tobacco area harvested totaled 1,300 acres in 2002, unchanged from the previous year. Yields averaged 1,500 pounds per acre, up 50 pounds from 2001. Production for burley tobacco totaled 1.95 million pounds in 2002, up 3 percent from last year.